



# GRAIN TRANSPORTATION REPORT

Agricultural Marketing Service  
United States Department of Agriculture




JUNE 1, 1999

June 3-6	Crossing Borders: Food and Agriculture In The Americas	Toronto, Ont., Canada	Jo Marie Powers 519-822-3086 (ph) 519-822-6534 (fax) jpowers@uoguelph.ca
June 6-11	National Transportation Management Conference	New Orleans, LA	202-879-4700 (ph) <a href="mailto:Tracy@EnoTrans.com">Tracy@EnoTrans.com</a>
June 14-15	Functional Foods: Strategies For The Food Industry	Newport Beach, CA	651-454-7250 (ph) 651-454-0766 (fax) <a href="mailto:aacc@scisoc.org">aacc@scisoc.org</a>
June 16-18	82 <sup>nd</sup> Annual Pacific Northwest Grain and Feed Association Convention & Trade Show	Couder d'Alene, ID	503-227-0234 (ph)
June 15-17	Ag. Biotechnology...Food, Feed and Fiber	San Diego, CA	800-882-8684 (ph)
June 30-July 1	National Corn Grower Association Industry Roundtable	Kansas City, KS	Sandra Wright 314-275-9915 (ext. 119)
July 11-13	Canadian Feed Industry Association Annual Convention	Ottawa, Canada	Tracey McGrath 613-241-6421 (ph)
July 18-21	39 <sup>th</sup> Annual U.S. Grains Council Board of Directors Meeting	Boston, MA	202-789-0789 (ph) 202-898-0522 (fax)
July 25-28	Summer Ports, Waterways, and International Trade Conference	Duluth, MN	Joedy Cambridge 202-334-3205 (ph)
August 4-7	Global Soy Forum '99	Chicago, IL	217-244-7384 (ph) 217-244-1707 (fax)
Sept. 5-9	Agritech 99 - The 14 <sup>th</sup> International Agriculture Exhibition	Haifa, Israel	972-3-514-2868 (ph) <a href="mailto:agrinfo@agritech.org.il">agrinfo@agritech.org.il</a>
Sept. 12-14	American Short Line & Regional Railroad Association Annual Meeting	New York, NY	1-202-628-4500 (ph)
Sept. 26-Oct. 1	American Association of Port Authorities Annual Convention	New York, NY	1-703-684-5700 (ph) 1-703-684-6321 (fax) <a href="mailto:info@aapa-ports.org">info@aapa-ports.org</a>

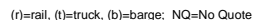
This report is prepared by Karl Hacker and Karla Martin, Agricultural Economists, Transportation & Marketing, Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA (202) 690-1304. Report design by Kimberly Vachal, Upper Great Plains Transportation Institute, North Dakota State University. You can retrieve this document from our Automatic Fax System by using the handset on your fax machine and dialing (202) 690-1707. This report can be found on the Internet at [www.ams.usda.gov/tmd/grain.htm](http://www.ams.usda.gov/tmd/grain.htm). E-mail comments to [GTR@usda.gov](mailto:GTR@usda.gov).

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## Futures:

			06/01/99	Week Ago 05/21/99	Year Ago 06/02/98
Kansas City	Wht	Jul	2.7825	2.7750	3.0875
Minneapolis	Wht	Jul	3.2275	3.2050	n.a.
Minneapolis	Dur	May	3.6500	3.5800	n.a.
Chicago	Wht	Jul	2.5175	2.5225	n.a.
Chicago	Corn	Jul	2.1625	2.1850	n.a.
Chicago	Sybn	Jul	4.5800	4.6175	n.a.



Inland Bids: Ord. HRW, 14% HRS, #1 SRW, #1 DUR, #1 SWW, #2 Y Corn, #1 Y Soybeans  
Export Bids: 12% HRW, 14% HRS, #2 SRW, #2 DUR, #2 SWW, #2 Y Corn, #1 Y Soybeans

Sources...U.S. Inland: All (except ND) - *Market News Report*, AMS, USDA ([www.usda.ams.gov](http://www.usda.ams.gov))  
ND - *Friday Local Cash Grain Prices*, AgWeek, Grand Forks, ND  
U.S. Export: Corn & Soybean - *Export Grain Bids*, AMS, USDA  
Wheat Bids - *Weekly Wheat Report*, U.S. Wheat Associates, Washington, D.C.  
Canada: Bids in CAN\$, Canadian Wheat Board, Winnipeg ([www.cwb.ca](http://www.cwb.ca))

The graph displays the average cost per car for three different trading scenarios over a 25-month period. The Y-axis represents the average cost in dollars per car, ranging from \$0 to \$300, with a horizontal line at \$0 labeled '\$0=Tariff Rate'. The X-axis shows the delivery month and year from September 1997 to November 1999. The BNSF-SWAP scenario (black line with square markers) shows a peak of approximately \$180 in November 1997 and a trough of about -\$150 in May 1998. The CP-GEEP scenario (red line with square markers) follows a similar pattern but with lower peaks and higher troughs. The UP-POOL scenario (purple line with circle markers) consistently shows the highest costs, peaking at nearly \$230 in November 1997 and reaching a trough of about -\$30 in May 1998.

Delivery Month-Year	BNSF-SWAP (\$/Car)	CP-GEEP (\$/Car)	UP-POOL (\$/Car)
Sep-97	80	100	100
Oct-97	180	150	200
Nov-97	180	120	220
Dec-97	120	80	220
Jan-98	70	40	140
Feb-98	-20	-10	70
Mar-98	-90	-50	10
Apr-98	-130	-60	-20
May-98	-150	-70	-30
Jun-98	-90	-40	0
Jul-98	50	10	50
Aug-98	100	60	100
Sep-98	120	100	150
Oct-98	170	120	190
Nov-98	110	80	140
Dec-98	30	30	60
Jan-99	-10	-10	10
Feb-99	-30	-30	10
Mar-99	-40	-40	0
Apr-99	-45	-45	-10
May-99	-45	-45	-10
Jun-99	-20	-10	10
Jul-99	10	10	40
Aug-99	30	20	70
Sep-99	80	60	100
Oct-99	110	90	110
Nov-99	90	70	100

Index - Percent of Tariff Rate

Straight Lines Indicate 3-yr Avg  
Weekly Movement based on 4-Week Running Avg.

Date	Index - Percent of Tariff Rate (%)
01/10/96	260
03/13/96	290
05/15/96	120
07/17/96	100
09/18/96	170
11/20/96	150
01/22/97	210
03/26/97	150
05/28/97	100
07/30/97	100
10/01/97	240
12/03/97	140
02/04/98	110
04/08/98	120
06/10/98	120
08/12/98	170
10/14/98	310
12/16/98	140
02/17/99	140
04/21/99	130

**Rail Car 'Auction' Offerings**

Delivery for:	Jul-99		Sep-99	
	<u>Offered</u>	<u>% Sold</u>	<u>Offered</u>	<u>% Sold</u>
<b>BNSF-COT</b>	9,500	50%	9,500	49%
<b>UP-GCAS</b>	5,400	21%	5,400	23%
Source: Transportation & Marketing /AMS/USDA; www.bnsf.com; www.uprr.com				

**Secondary Rail Car Market**

Average Premium/Discount to Tariff, \$/Car - Last Week

	<b>Delivery Period</b>			
	Jun-99	Aug-99	Sep-99	Oct-99
BNSF-GF	\$(45)	\$8	\$54	\$95
CP-GEEP	\$12	\$23		
UP-Pool	\$(7)	\$44	\$76	\$102

Source: T&amp;M/AMS/USDA. Data from Atwood/ConAgra., Harvest States Co-op, James B. Joiner Co., Tradewest Brokerage Co.;

GF=Guaranteed Freight, GEEP=Guaranteed Eqpt. Exchange, Pool=Guaranteed Pool

note... bids listed are market INDICATORS only &amp; are NOT guaranteed prices, missing value=No Bid Quoted

**Railroad Car 'Auction' Results**

Average Premium/Discount to Tariff, \$/Car - Last Auction

Delivery for:	Jul-99	Aug-99	Sep-99
COT/N. Grain	no bid	\$3	\$33
COT/S. Grain	\$2	\$3	\$37
GCAS/Region 2	no bid	no bid	\$9
GCAS/Region 4	no bid	no bid	\$4

Source: T&M/AMS/USDA. Data from [www.bnsf.com](http://www.bnsf.com), [www.uprr.com](http://www.uprr.com), (COT=Certificate of Transportation; GCAS=Grain Car Allocation System)**Southbound Barge Freight Nominal Values\***

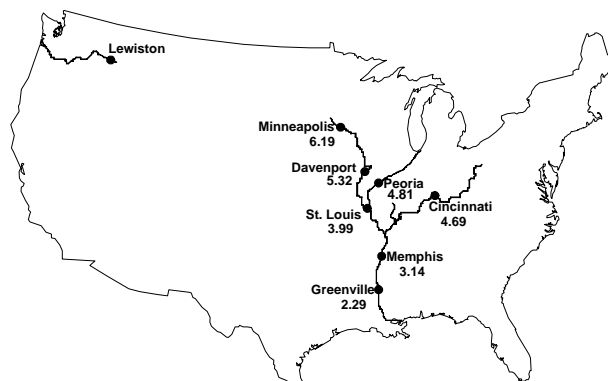
Index=Percent of Tariff, Based on 1976 Tariff Benchmark Rate

Week ended	River/Region	Contract Period	Rate
5/26/99	Twin Cities	twk/nwk	160
		June	165
	Mid Miss	twk	140
		June	140
	Illinois River	twk/nwk	125
		June	130
	Ohio River	twk/nwk	95
		June	100
	Lower Ohio River	twk	95
	St. Louis	twk	90
		June	95

Summary Of Daily Barge Trades Reported To St. Louis Merchants Exchange.

twk=this week  
nwk=next week**Barge Benchmark Tariff Rates  
Est. 1976 - 'Tariff No. 7'****Southbound Barge Freight Spot Rates**

	5/26/99	5/19/99	June '99	August '99
Twin Cities	165	162	169	194
Mid-Mississippi	140	140	143	168
Illinois River	130	130	134	158
St. Louis-Cairo	93	95	102	141
Lower Ohio	97	90	109	152
Cairo-Memphis	93	95	100	133

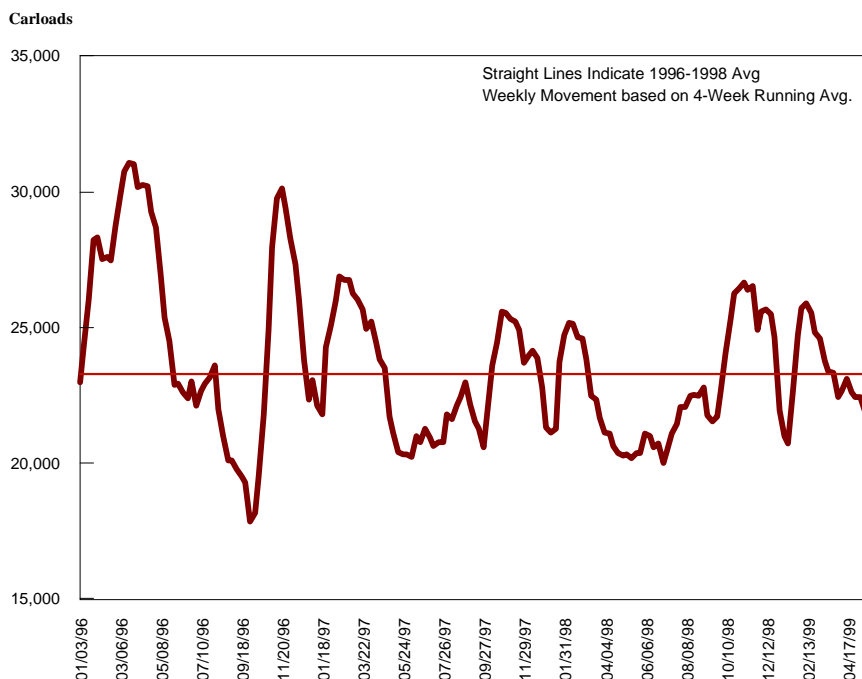
Source: Transportation & Marketing /AMS/USDA  
nq- no quote

## Grain Car Loadings for Class I Railroads

Class I Railroad Grain Car Loadings	
Week Ending:	Carloads
5/8/99	23,279
5/15/99	22,130
5/22/99	23,565
Year to Date - 1999	472,144
Year to Date - 1998**	447,198
Total 1998**	1,183,860
Total 1997*	1,199,995
Source: American Association of Railroads	

\*\*1998 - 52 weeks

\* 1997 - 53 weeks



## Class I Rail Carrier Grain Car Bulletin

Carloads

Canroads									
	Conrail	CSXT	East		West			Canada	
			IC	NS	BNSF	KCS	UP	CN	CP
05/22/99	455	2,389	1,737	3,017	7,606	515	7,846	2,668	4,216
This Week Last Year	600	2,289	1,711	2,543	8,038	483	5,565	2,089	3,356
1999 YTD	14,941	49,975	30,470	51,622	160,026	14,739	150,371	41,702	65,876
1998 YTD*	13,892	48,647	27,835	51,325	165,499	13,211	126,789	52,010	84,743
1997 Total**	29,834	118,581	80,255	124,834	428,243	34,690	378,888	171,428	272,156
1996 Total	31,733	111,509	48,695	131,568	432,687	30,009	439,865	129,714	181,387

Source: American Association of Railroads

\*\*1998 - 52 weeks

\* 1997 - 53 weeks

## Tariff Rail Rates for Unit Train Shipments

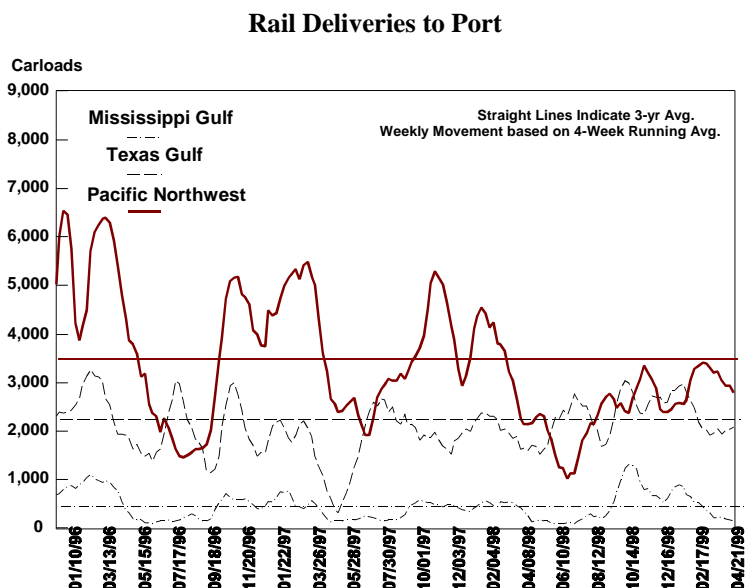
June 1999

Date Effective	Tariff Item	Commodity	Origin	Destination	Rate Per Car	Rate Per MT	Rate/Per Bushel*
06/01/99	45560	Wheat	Minneapolis, MN	Houston, TX	\$2,150	\$19.51	\$0.65
06/01/99	43521	Wheat	Minneapolis, MN	Portland, OR	\$4,442	\$40.31	\$1.33
06/01/99	46540	Wheat	Kansas City, MO	Houston, TX	\$1,850	\$16.79	\$0.56
06/01/99	43586	Wheat	Kansas City, MO	Portland, OR	\$4,604	\$41.78	\$1.38
06/01/99	43581	Wheat	Omaha, NE	Portland, OR	\$4,205	\$38.16	\$1.26
06/01/99	31040	Corn	Minneapolis, MN	Portland, OR	\$2,915	\$23.26	\$0.82
06/01/99	31035	Corn	Kansas City, MO	Portland, OR	\$3,100	\$24.74	\$0.87
06/01/99	31040	Corn	Omaha, NE	Portland, OR	\$2,535	\$20.23	\$0.71
06/01/99	61180	Soybean	Minneapolis, MN	Portland, OR	\$3,330	\$30.22	\$1.00
06/01/99	61180	Soybean	Omaha, NE	Portland, OR	\$3,030	\$27.50	\$0.91
05/01/98	61180	Soybean	Omaha, NE	Portland, OR	\$2,780	\$25.23	\$0.83

Source: www.bnsf.com

Approximate load per car = 100 tons: Corn 56 lbs/bu, Wheat &amp; Soybeans 60 lbs/bu

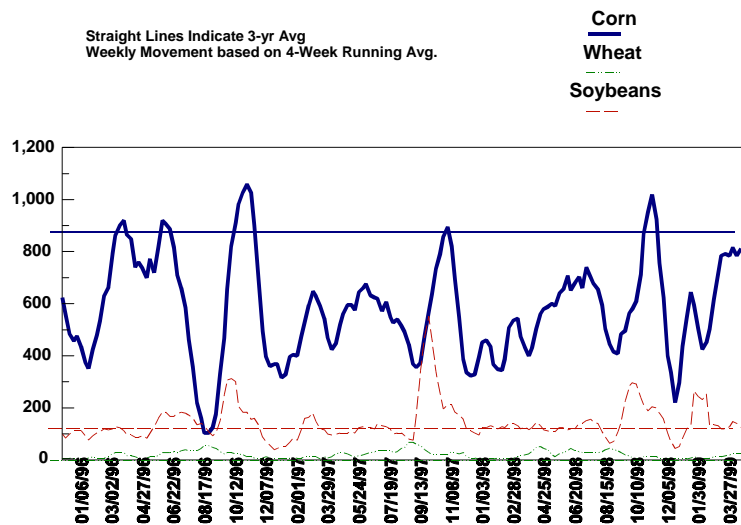
<b>Rail Deliveries to Port</b>				
Carloads				
	Mississippi Gulf	Texas Gulf	Pacific Northwest	Atlantic & East Gulf
Week Ending:				
04/14/99	233	2,296	2,598	215
04/21/99	189	2,132	3,215	389
04/28/99	279	1,546	2,908	217
05/05/99	115	2,096	2,984	230
05/12/99	110	2,406*	2,640	81
05/19/99	104	2,277	2,602	29
YTD 1999	9,199	47,240	58,096	6,822
YTD 1998	8,277	39,906	66,268	5,752
Total 1998	23,844	115,321	138,461	12,505
Total 1997	20,152	93,265	195,953	9,147
Source: Transportation & Marketing/AMS/USDA				



\*Note: Corrected data.

## Barge Movements - Locks 27

1,000 Tons



## Barge Grain Movements

for week ending 05/22/99

	Corn	Wht	Sybn	Total
	1,000 Tons			
Mississippi River				
Rock Island, IL (L15)	471	29	44	544
Winfield, MO (L25)	556	26	31	620
Alton, IL (L26)	803	15	77	903
Granite City, IL (L27)	833	14	83	938
Illinois River (L8)	242	5	36	283
Ohio (L52)	21	5	12	73
Arkansas (L1)	0	24	3	27
1999 YTD	13,120	931	2,799	18,222
1998 YTD	9,562	688	3,094	14,802
Total 1998	31,226	2,420	8,866	45,625
Total 1997	29,685	2,689	9,584	45,315

Miss YTD: Calendar year totals include Miss/27, Ohio/52 and Ark/1.

Source: U.S. Army Corp of Engineers

**U.S. Export Balances\*** (1,000 Metric Tons)

	<i>HRW</i>	<i>SRW</i>	<i>HRS</i>	<u>Wheat</u> <i>SWW</i>	<i>DUR</i>	<i>All</i>	<u>Corn</u>	<u>Soybean</u>	<u>Total</u>
<u>Unshipped Exports-Crop Year</u>									
05/20/99	1,274	433	1,062	400	175	3,344	7,882	2,169	13,395
This Week Year Ago	1,230	306	1,196	399	171	3,303	6,067	1,779	11,149
<u>Cumulative Exports-Crop Year</u>									
98/99 YTD	10,017	2,396	6,256	5,268	970	24,906	33,825	18,590	77,321
97/98 YTD	9,581	4,691	6,040	5,357	1,212	26,881	26,256	17,713	70,850
97/98 Total	9,858	4,710	6,305	5,413	1,232	27,518	37,220	24,516	89,254
96/97 Total	7,387	3,645	7,864	6,105	963	25,965	44,476	24,501	94,942

**Select U.S. Port Regions - Grain Inspections for Export - 1,000 Metric Tons**

	<u>Pacific Region</u>			<u>Mississippi Gulf</u>			<u>Texas Gulf</u>		
	<i>Wheat</i>	<i>Corn</i>	<i>Soybean</i>	<i>Wheat</i>	<i>Corn</i>	<i>Soybean</i>	<i>Wheat</i>	<i>Corn</i>	<i>Soybean</i>
05/27/99	311	214	0	189	663	90	190	11	38
1999 YTD	4,406	3,217	103	2,593	13,856	6,290	2,990	272	676
1998 YTD *	3,889	2,791	363	2,204	10,257	6,916	2,333	174	553
% of Last Year	41%	74%	16%	51%	44%	42%	41%	48%	49%
1998 Total	10,838	4,373	651	5,048	31,330	14,917	7,270	562	1,392

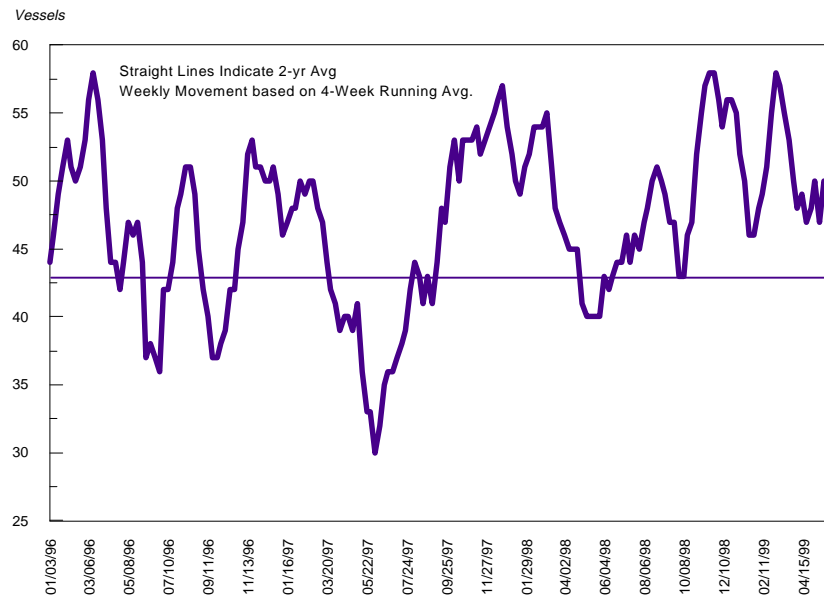
Source: Federal Grain Inspection Service \* YTD-Year-to-Date ('98 = 53 week period)

**Select Canadian Ports - Export Inspections**

1,000 Metric Tons, Crop Year

	<u>Wheat</u>	<u>Durum</u>	<u>Barley</u>
Week Ended: 05/27/99			
Vancouver	4,006	882	314
Prince Rupert	1,226	6	0
Prairie Direct	815	461	279
Thunder Bay	427	144	218
St. Lawrence	1,702	1,428	0
1999YTD Exports	8,176	2,921	811
1998 YTD Exports	13,734	3,402	2,008
% of Last Year	60%	86%	40%

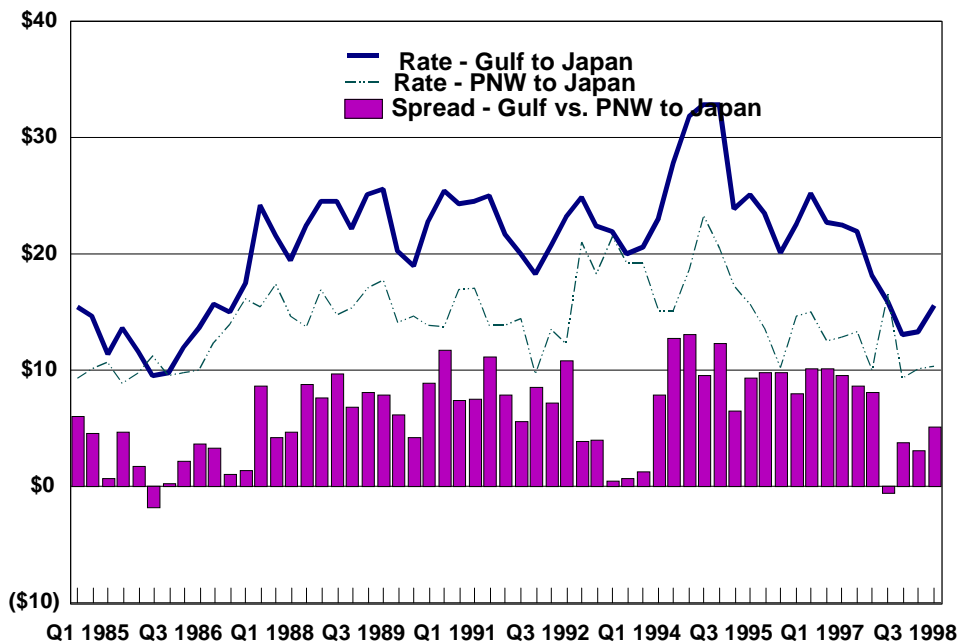
Source: Canadian Grains Commission \*Year Ago-This Week a Year Ago \*\*  
YTD-Year-to-Date Crop Year 8/1-7/31



**Gulf Region  
Vessels Loaded  
- Past 7 Days-**

Port Region Ocean Grain Vessels									
	Gulf			Pacific Northwest			Vancouver, B.C.		
		Loaded	Due Next		Loaded	Due Next		Loaded	Due Next
	<u>In Port</u>	<u>7-Days</u>	<u>10-Days</u>	<u>In Port</u>	<u>7-Days</u>	<u>10-Days</u>	<u>In Port</u>	<u>7-Days</u>	<u>10-Days</u>
05/20/99	28	55	70	11			14	7	2
05/27/99	25	50	59	11			12	10	2
1998 Range	(19..62)	(34..64)	(40..93)				(1..16)	(3..14)	(0..10)
1997 Range	(11..52)	(25..61)	(31..89)						
1998 Avg	40	48	61				9	9	3
1997 Avg	33	45	58						
1996 Avg	38	46	62						
Source: Transportation & Marketing /AMS/ USDA									

US\$/Metric Ton

Quarterly Ocean  
Freight Rates**Quarterly Ocean Freight Rates**

Average Rates &amp; Percentage Changes, U.S. Dollars/Metric Ton - Basis

	1999 1 <sup>st</sup> Qtr	1998 1 <sup>st</sup> Qtr	% Change		1999 1 <sup>st</sup> Qtr	1998 1 <sup>st</sup> Qtr	% Change
<b>Gulf to</b>				<b>Pacific NW to</b>			
Japan	\$15.62	\$18.24	-14%	Japan	\$10.41	\$10.08	3%
Mexico	\$14.22	\$12.15	17%	Red Sea/ Arabian Sea	\$45.81		
Venezuela	\$11.33	\$11.13	2%				
N. Europe	\$12.16	\$9.85	23%	<b>Argentina to</b>			
N. Africa	\$17.12	\$14.65	17%	N. Europe	\$14.55	\$12.32	18%
				Japan	\$21.35	\$20.93	2%

Source: Transportation &amp; Marketing/AMS/USDA

**Ocean Freight Rates (Select Locations) - week ending 05/29/99**

Export Region	Import Region	Grain	Month	Volume Loaded (Tons)	Freight Rate (\$/Ton)
Gulf	Mexico (EC)	Heavy Grain	Prompt	25,000	\$9.25
Gulf	Estonia	Wheat	May/June	61,000	\$46.48 (MT)
Gulf	St. Petersburg (Rus.)	Wheat	April/May	70,000	\$63.00 (MT)
Gulf	Vladivostok (Rus.)	Wheat	April/May	43,000	\$83.15 (MT)
Gulf	Egypt	Grains	June	64,000	\$9.22
Gulf	Japan	Heavy Grain	June	54,000	\$16.80
PNW	Indonesia	Wheat	June	64,000	\$66.66 (MT)
River Plate	Lisbon/ Hamburg	Heavy Grain	Spot	30,000	\$17.75
France	Algeria	Wheat	Prompt	25,000	\$14.00
So. Africa	Honduras/Costa Rica	Corn	June	20,000	\$26.00

Source: Maritime Research Inc.